The Lemon Grove FVIF



Vol. 49, No. 70

Serving Lemon Grove and nearby communities

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mid-SEASON DREAMS

by MARY ROSEN, JOE NAIMAN AND GREG Eichelberger

trouble

getting untracked.

the team could right itself and

win the South and have a

expectation was that he con-

sidered his pitching staff the

deepest in the league. He

hoped it would have been able

to pitch more shutouts than

achieved. Mike McHugh, a

right hander who Schniepp

said was one of the hardest

throwers in the county, has not

One reason for the coach's

strong shot at the CIF title.

Schniepp, who has been at Helix for 10 years, said that One thing all the coaches in prior to the season, he had the Grossmont League seem to agree upon is that the league is expected the team to be among the top five in the county. the toughest in the county. He still was optimistic that

As Grossmont High School's first year coach Rob Phillips noted, it is not unusual to see as many as four of the league's, teams in the top 10 rankings in the county. He noted that Christian High School added another strong team to East County.

Phillips, whose team was undefeated in league and ranked first in the county, was pleasantly surprised by the team doing better than he had expected.

Following two pre-league

playing in the first half. He noted that the team has been very inconsistent in making routine defensive plays.

been

However, he still feels that the team could be quite good by season end. He said that pitching has been the team's strong point, especially behind the right hander Eric Becker who he said throws hard with good control.

"We've been hitting the ball well," he said, "and scoring a lot of runs, but the opponents probably score more, too.'

On offense, he noted that Marcus Hawkins has begin to hit well, raising his average by more than .60 points over the previous few games, up to .340. He also leads the team in home runs and RBIs.

Lombardi said he thought that his catcher, Adam Higbee is the best defensive player in that position in the league who has thrown out more than 68 percent on stolen bases attempts.

Despite the fact that Mount Miguel had its best start in the schools history, winning its first four games, the team's record in league (1-5 at the midpoint) once again shows the strength of the Grossmont League. Coach Sean Seibel, now in his third year, felt that in any other league in the county, the Matadors could be among the leaders.

One problem the coach noted is the lack of much youth baseball in the school's area. Seibel noted that each year that he has been at the school the team has gotten better.

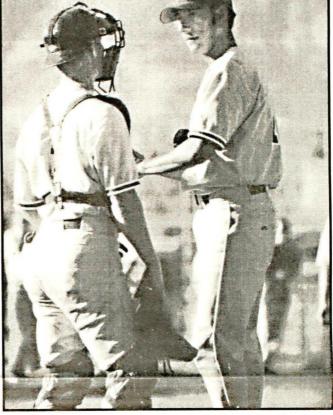
He felt the players were learning to be a team, doing the little things that are necessary in baseball to win. He added that the young team is starting to get more motivated as they gain experience.

Seibel felt that right-handed pitcher Andre Simpson is among the top 10 in the county in pitching statistics, and has the potential to be one of the best in the county.

His top defender is third year catcher Joel Thomas. He added that Brian Wilson, senior left fielder, and sophomore first baseman Mike Balsley have been hitting quite well.

Led by the batting prowess of Travis Dennis, Jason Canaris, Tim Collin and Steve Brown, and the hurling exploits of Jared Yokley and Travis Bays, the Santana Sultans have surprised everyone, edg-

ing El Capitan for second place. Not that their record is so



Foothillers' catcher Beau Craig confers with hurler Adam Diaz late in a game against El Capitan. Grossmont won the North Conference contest, 9-4. Photo by Greg Eichelberger

El Capitan's Paul Warfield can't quite avoid the tag of Santana third baseman Donnie Lewis on an infield grounder during key North Grossmont League April 29 game which saw the visiting Sultans win a see-saw game, 9-8, at El Cap. Photo by Marv Rosen

wins over defending state champions Fountain Valley and a win over nationally rated Green Valley of Las Vegas, Grossmont has been listed in the top 10 in two national polls. Phillips, however. discounted such rankings as purely arbitrary.

He said that one of the reasons for the team's position was the play of Ryan Lehr, the team's third baseman who was hitting just under .500 with 20 RBIs (runs batted in). Lehr holds the league record for most hits in a season.

The coach also singled out catcher Beau Craig whom he considers the best defensive catcher in the league. Craig was hitting .420 with 20 RBIs at the time of the interview.

On the flip side of that coin is Helix, which has not performed up to coach Jerry Schniepp's expectations.

Like the professional Padres, the team is having

done as well as hoped.

On the field, the coach noted that Aurelio Jackson, the team's leading hitter and base-stealer, is an outstanding shortstop.

At the mid-point of the season, Monte Vista was in its accustomed position on the top of the South with a 5-1 record.

Coach Mark Smelko was happy with the performance of a squad which had lost a lot through graduation. He said the team has a very young pitching staff but, obviously, is moving in the right direction.

The team's offensive strong points are Leo Daigle who had a .430 average and was leading the county in home runs with 11 and shortstop Brooks Conrad who had five homers to go with a .450 batting average.

Smelko felt that righthander Dan Hulser and lefty Royce Ring were his top pitchers.

Valhalla's first year coach, John Lombardi is somewhat disappointed in how his team has

spectacular (4-3, 11-11, as of this writing), but have managed to pull out some clutch wins, a tribute to coach Jerry Henson's faith in his charges.

That confidence, however, has failed to translate into victories over the top-ranked East County school, Grossmont, which has won 10-3 and 8-2.

West Hills may not win the title, but they've won plenty of hearts with their sterling play this season. The hardballers are only 4-14-2, and have long been out of the post-season race.

Cory Switzer, Scott Mehaffie, Stephen Howard and Jason Hammond have provide the offensive punch for the Wolf Pack, while their starting pitching, led by Switzer, has been inconsistent all year.

El Capitan's Steve Vickery said his team's strengths and weaknesses are offense and pitching. The Vaquero bats win games by scores of 8-6, 21-0 and 10-7, but the tossing has let them down time and time again, with losses of 9-5 to Grossmont and a heartbreaking failure against West Hills, 7-5.

"At the start of the season, we were giving up three or four runs a game," said Vickery, in his 14th year as head coach. We're surrendering eight and nine, making it a battle to score enough runs to win, he added.

The Vaqs are led by Brett Caradonna (one of the top 50 prep players in the country), Brian Doerr, Travis Kane, Paul Wardell, Mario Knorr and a host of others. Their pitching is anchored by Wardell, Ted Nelson, Randy Perez and Keith Smith.

Keeping El Cap competitive is its defense, turning a school record 25 double plays.

"Every team in East County's loaded," said El Cajon Valley High School coach Ferdy Reed

Youth and competition have been an obstacle to the team's record, which is still a respectable 10-12 with five games left in the season.

El Cajon includes two lefthanders who serve as both lefthanded pitchers catchers. "Blows everybody away until they start throwing guys out," said Reed.

Catcher Joe Kennedy leads the county in hitting with a .521 average and is second in the county with 72 strikeouts; he has 1.95 earned run average and a 6-3 record. Sophomore Brandon Ostberg, batting .333 and 40 strikeouts in 30 innings pitched.

Center fielder Cammy Burgess leads the county with 22 stolen bases. "Probably the fastest runner in the county," said Reed. El Cajon is batting .330 as a team.

Although Christian High School is in the Harbor League, it has also exceeded expectations. According to Athletic Director Jan Hethcock, we've got a good coach, good assistant coaches, good team spirit, good unity, morale and are putting it together.

Send your Fictitious Business Statement to The Lemon Grove Review

Box 127, Lemon Grove, CA 91946

(Why pay the Daily Californian \$42?)

PUBLIC NOTICES -

A.P. NUMBER 480-262-01-00

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

TRUSTEE'S SALE
UNDER DEED OF TRUST
YOU ARE IN DEFAULT
UNDER A DEED OF TRUST,
DATED August 1, 1995,
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NOTICE is hereby given that STATEWIDE GROUP INC... DBA STATEWIDE FORECLO-SURE SERVICES. a California Corporation as trustee, or successor trustee, or substituted trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by MICHAEL A. HALL AND SHARON E. HALL, HUS-BAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT

Recorded on 08/11/1995 as Instru-ment No. 1995-0348891 in Book Page of official records in the office of the County Recorder of SAN DIEGO County. California. and pursuant to the Notice of Default and Election to Sell thereunder recorded 02/07/1997 in Book, Page, as Instrument No. 1997-0056671 of said Official 1997-0056671 of said Official Records WILL SELL on 06/05/1997 at SOUTH ENTRANCE TO COUNTY COURTHOUSE 220 WEST BROADWAY SAN DIEGO. CA at 10:00 A.M. AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BID-DER FOR CASH (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States), all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said in the property situated in said County and State and described as follows: LOT 29 OF FORAN MANOR, UNIT NO. 2, IN THE CITY OF LEMON GROVE. COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO. STATE OF CALIFORNIA. ACCORDING TO MAP THERE-OF NO. 2449. FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY

RECORDER OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY, JANUARY 16, 1958 APN-480-262-01-00

The street address and other com-mon designation, if any, of the real property described above is pur-ported to be: 3051 OLIVE (AVE) STREET, LEMON GROVE, CA 91945

The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any shown herein.

The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and rea-sonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$63.809.32 In addition to cash, the Trustee

will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank. a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. In the event tender other than cash is accepted the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right

Said sale will be made, but with-out covenant or warranty, express or implied regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed, advances thereunder, with interest as provided therein, and the unpaid principal balance of the Note secured by said Deed with interest thereon as provided in said Note, fees, charges and expenses of the trustee and the trusts created by said Deed of Trust.

Dated: 05/08/1997

STATEWIDE GROUP INC... as

DBA STATEWIDE FORECLO-SURE SERVICES 4355 RUFFIN ROAD, SUITE 110 SAN DIEGO. CA 92123-4307 (619) 571-7862 /s/Janet Edwards

By JANET EDWARDS. VICE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF TRUSTES'S SALE Trustee Sale No. D132836-77 Title Order No. 7970024 Reference No. 4337913 APN No. 576-150-18-00 YOU ARE NO. 7970024 Reference No. 4337913 APN No. 576-150-18-00 YOU ARE NO. 7970024 Reference No. 4337913 APN No. 576-150-18-00 YOU ARE NO. 7970024 Reference No. 4337913 APN No. 576-150-18-00 YOU ARE NO. 7970024 Reference No. 4337913 APN No. 576-150-18-00 YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY. IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. ON May 20, 1997 at 10:00 AM. Equitable Deed Company, as Successor in Interest by Merger to Continential Auxiliary Company as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust, recorded on 05/02/90 as Document No. 90-237651 Book Page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of SAN DIEGO County, California, executed by: KENNETH KNIGHT AND DEBRA KNIGHT, WHO ARE MARRIED TO EACH OTHER, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the funited States) at: AT THE SOUTH ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE AT, 220 WEST BROADWAY, SAN DIEGO, CA., all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California described as: EXHIBIT A PARCEL A: Parcel 1 of Parcel Map No. 11990, in the City of Lamon Grove, County of San Diego, State of California, Filed in the Office of the County Recorder of San Diego County. PARCEL B: An Eastment for Road and Public Utility Purposes Over, Under, along and Acrosa a Strip of Land 10.00 Feet in Width in Lot 8 of Berryland, in the City of Lamon Grove, County of San Diego, State of California, According to Map Thereof No. 1753, Filed in the Office of the County Recorder of San Diego County. April 2, 1923, the Santhwesterly Corner Thereof, Sald Point Being the Southwesterly Corner Thereof, Sald Point Being the Southwesterly Corner of Land Devokos: Corneratory at the Santhy Prolongation of the Easterly 20 90630-0012, TELEPHONE NO.: (714) 220-3464. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, for the purpose of satisfying the indebtedness accured by said Deed of Trust including the fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee. The trustee under said Deed of Trust caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. Equitable Deed Company, as Trustee, Trust Deed Unit #38434, 333 South Beautry Avanue 11th Roor, Los Angeles, CA 90017, Telephone Number: (213) 345-8953, By: ENID DODOUGH, TRUSTEE SALE OFFICER, Date: 04/18/97 NPP0028418 PUB: 04/29/97, 05/06/97, 05/13/97

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(USPS NO. 309-840)

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Material can be sent via e-mail at the following address: yscmr@adnc.com

All materials must be received by the Monday preceding the date of publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions

Advertising

All advertising is subject to current rate card. The publisher reserves the right to reject an advertiser's order.

Only publication of an advertise ment shall constitute final acceptance. Send all correspondence to: Forum Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 127, Lemon

Lemon Grove Almanac

1994 Population: Incorporated:

Area:

Grove. CA 91946

25,100 1977 3.75 sq. mi.

Median income: 1996-97 city budget: \$26.3 million 1996 taxable sales:

\$34,399 \$265 million

Mayor: Mary Teresa Sessom Council: Thomas Clabby Craig Lake

Dwight Shelley Jeff Jandura City Manager: **Doug Yount** Planning Director: Jim Butler

Gloria McLean City Attorney: **Christine Taub** City Clerk: Sheriff's Capt .: **Yolanda Collins** Fire Chief: Dale Chamberlain

Congressional district: 52nd - Duncan Hunter State Senate district: 40th - Steve Peace State Assembly district: 77th - Steve Baldwin Supervisorial district: 2nd - Dianne Jacob

High school: Libraries: Post offices: Parks Recreation centers

Proud Member



Young musicians to perform

Two East County residents, Derek Polischuk and Victoria Bietz, members of the San Diego Youth Symphony will be performing as a part of "Children Helping Children" fund-raising event to benefit the San Diego Center for Children and the Childrens Action League.

Polischuk a pianist, and Bietz, a violinist, will be featured soloists at the event which will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina.

The evening begins with a social hour followed by dinner and the concert. The symphony will be directed by its new conductor, Jeff Edmons and KNSD newscaster, Clark Anthony will emcee.

The San Diego Center for Children is the county's longest-established, non-profit facility for children who have complex emotional, social or developmental disorders that require residential, day or outpatient treatment and education.

Proceeds will be used to fund the completion of a special care and research center on the center's campus and a licensed, accredited daycare center on the campus of the Hamilton Achievement Academy, sponsored by the Childrens Action League

Patron tickets for the event are \$125 and general tickets are \$75. For more information or reservations call Karen Berney at 481-6320 or Else Weston at 755-1173.

Lemon Grove Fire Log

April 25, 1997 through May 1, 1997

8000 blk. Broadway. Assault victim.

8200 blk. Palm St. Illegal burn

1700 blk. Skyline Dr. Seizure.

Hwy 94 EB/Spring St. Freeway/accident/rescue.

2400 blk. Bonita St. Diabetic problem.

3200 blk. Kempf St. Assault victim

1700 blk. Colfax Dr. Medical aid.

2200 blk. Alton Pl. Vegetation fire

7500 blk. Cuyamaca St. Knife wound/stabbing.

3600 blk. Olive St. Chest pains.

7500 blk North Ave. Possible coroner's case.

2100 blk. Main St. Diabetic problem. 7500 blk. Church St. Medical aid.

7100 blk. West View Pl. Overdose

2300 blk. Main St. Vaginal bleeding

3200 blk. Man St. Suicide/attempted suicide.

2000 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Traffic accident.

7700 blk. Broadway. Assault victim.

MacArthur Dr./San Miguel Ave. Vehicle accident.

1400 blk. Arthur Neal Ct. Bleeding.

Lansing Dr./Skyline Dr. Traffic accident.

2300 blk. Camino Del Las Palmas. Abdominal pains.

8400 blk. Palm St. Fall.

6400 blk. Mac Arthur Dr. Vegetation fire.

3700 blk. Hilltop Dr. Medical aid.

Sheriff's Log

2000 blk. Siegle Dr. Residential burglary. \$370 value.

April 22, 1997

2200 blk. Washington Ave. Auto theft. \$2,000 value. April 24, 1997

7500 blk. Mt. Vernon. Auto theft. \$2,000 value.

April 25, 1997

8700 blk. Broadway. Commercial burglary. \$1,700 value.

April 25-26, 1997

8000 blk. Broadway. Petty theft. \$40 value.

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 96-51999 Title Order No. 8901406 Reference No. 1109754653 APN No. 577-735-05-00 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 03/14/94. UNLESS YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 03/14/94. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. ON MAY 20, 1997, at 10:00 AM. Professional Foreclosure Corporation as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust, recorded on 03/31/94 as Document No. 1994-0213037 Book — Page — of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of SAN DIEGO County, California, executed by: MICHAEL W. SLAVINSKY AND MARIA L. SLAVINSKY, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS JOINT TENANTS, as Trustor, FLEET MORTGAGE CORP, as Beneficiary. WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or netional bank, a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, asvings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). At: ATTHE SOUTH ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE AT 220 WEST, BROADWAY, SAN DIEGO, CA., all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California describing the land therein: Lot 71 of Blossom Hill, in the City of Lemon Grove, County of San Diego, of the County Recorder of San Diego, of th

Sports Beat

Greetings. Sad tidings indeed this week, especially when we're highlighting the best of our prep baseball teams throughout East County. It seems that 13 El Capitan teens (nine boys and four girls), drunk, stupid and possibly under the influence of marijuana, were arrested for vandalizing mailboxes and violating curfew last Friday in Blossom Valley.

That's bad enough, but six of those involved were baseball players (one varsity, four junior varsity and one freshman). Coach Steve Vickery indicated that they would be suspended from their teams for one week. "I'm extremely disappointed," he said. "The bottom line is that these are great kids, but they just got misguided and had a bad night."

A "bad night?" Sorry to disagree with you, Steve, but destroying mailboxes, driving while drunk and breaking curfew laws, do not a "bad night" make. This is not school high jinks. These are serious and possibly deadly offenses. And the kids, irresponsible as they are, are nothing compared to their parents, who should have been keeping track of their offspring in the first place.

And just a one week suspension?! Come on! Why not just slap them on the wrists and send them to their rooms for an hour? If it were me, these idiots would be gone for the rest of the season. Steve Vickery is a friend of mine, but I think he should have put his patent leather spikes down on this kind of behavior - permanently.

Now on to some "good" kids. Andy Schmidt, a junior at Grossmont High, clocked two fast times in leading his Foothillers past El Cap 122-64 (I have no idea how they score swim meets, by the by), and Stephanie Calhoun, a sophomore on the Mount Miguel softball team, were named U-T Athletes of the Week. Good job.

Vickery, as well as Gordy Thompson (Granite Hills), Jeff Boutelle (West Hills), Jerry Schniepp (Helix), Mark Smelko (Monte Vista) and Jerry Henson (Santana) are among the county leaders in wins for active baseball coaches.

Ironically, Rob Phillips, of Grossmont, the number one ranked team in San Diego (El Cap is #4, Granite Hills is #8, and Monte Vista is #10) and the number seven team in the nation, is not among these distinguished gentleman.

In another example that sports personalities (as well as politicians, actors, musicians and other celebrities) have no credibility whatsoever, Kentucky basketball coach Rich Pitino, who once said, "Nothing could ever make him leave" the school, opted to do just that, grabbing \$70 million over the next 10 years to transplant to Beantown to helm the Celtics. In order to avoid this kind of embarrassment, I will never say "never" to any potential job opportunity. And, neither should you.

We read that the Grossmont College women's tennis team was to play the College of the Desert for Southern California Dual Title Championship, last week in Colton, but could never find out what happened. If you know, please let me in on it.

Spring Valley synchronized swimmer Emily Marsh was selected to the national "A" team last week after trials at the Santa Clara International Swim Center. She will be part of the new national team (to replace the squad which retired after winning the Olympic gold medal in Atlanta - that group included Margot Thein, also of Spring Valley). Marsh will compete next in the World Cup event in Guangzhou, China in July.

We were proud to be at last Friday's Padre-Cub contest. Not so much to see two mediocre ball clubs combat each other, but to participate in "Randy Jones Night" at the stadium. Jones, the first Padre to win the Cy Young Award (Gaylord Perry and Mark Davis claimed it since), has connections not only with East County's Viejas Casino and Home of Guiding Hands, but is also a heckuva nice guy. And as far as I'm concerned, he is one San Diego ballplayer who truly deserves his number retired (not Steve Garvey, who seems to only babble about his Dodger days).

If you feel the same way, or even if you don't, please call me at 390-7103 with your news for this column. I'm always interested in what my readers think. And while you're at it, have a great

East County High Schools Varsity /Club Sports Schedules

(as available)

Tuesday, May 13 - Tuesday, May 20

Tuesday - Softball: Granite Hills at Helix, Monte Vista at Valhalla, El Capitan at El Cajon Valley, Santana at West Hills. Baseball: Helix at Granite Ihalla at Monte Vista, El Cajon Valley at El Capitan, West Hills at Santana. Golf: First round league finals at Singing Hills.

Wednesday - Boys tennis: Mount Miguel at Valhalla, Monte Vista at Helix, Grossmont at West Hills, Santana at El Cajon Valley. Volleyball: Santana at El Cajon Valley, Monte Vista at Helix. Golf: Sec-

ond round league finals. Thursday - Baseball: Monte Vista at Granite Hills, Mount Miguel at Helix, El Cajon Valley at West Hills, El Capitan at Grossmont. Softball: Granite Hills at Monte Vista, Helix at Mount Miguel, West Hills at El Cajon Valley, Grossmont at El Capitan.

Monday - Baseball: Mount Miguel at Monte Vista, Valhalla at Granite Hills, West Hills at Grossmont, El Cajon Valley at Santana. Softball: Monte Vista at Mount Miguel, Granite Hills at Valhalla, Grossmont at West Hills, Santana at El Cajon Valley. Golf: CIF team championships at Warner Springs Ranch.

Tuesday (5/20) - Boys tennis: first round CIF team championships. Boys volleyball: first round CIF team championships. Baseball: Mount Miguel at Valhalla, Monte Vista at Helix, Santana at Grossmont, El Capitan at West Hills. Softball: Valhalla at Mount Miguel, Helix at Monte Vista, Grossmont at Santana, West Hills at El Capitan.

Padres honor Matt LaChappa again

by Greg Eichelberger

A year after a series of cardiac arrests ended his playing career and almost took his life, and after a Little League park in Lakeside was given his name recently, Matthew LaChappa was honored, once again, by the professional baseball team that signed him to his original contract in 1993.

LaChappa received a rousing, standing ovation from the crowd as he was announced in a pre-game ceremony before the Pads played the Philadelphia Phillies in April.

He was surrounded by friends, family and Padre personnel, including Saul Soltero and J.D. "Jim" Daniel (the two men who administered CPR after his heart attack in the bullpen of the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes) and Priscilla Oppenheimer (Director of Minor League Operations), among others.

After being mobbed in the dugout by Padre players and manager Bruce Bochy, Matt, who had been left partially paralyzed by the still unknown malady which caused the attacks, was interviewed by no less than three television news organization on his day of days.

Then, wheeled to the pitching mound, the stricken 21year-old, who after months of in a coma and many more in rehabilitation, is slowly beginning to develop the skills he once took for granted, handed the ball to Soltero who tossed it to Padres infielder Archi Cianfrocco, to complete the activity.

With tears in her eyes, Oppenheimer said that she had waited a year for this. "To have seen him back then and to see this now is incredible. What an inspiration," she added

LaChappa's father, Clifford. the tribal chairman of the Barona Mission Indians, was also overcome at the event, saying that this, coupled with the field dedication in March, shows how much the Padres care about his son and the community as a whole.

They're celebrating a life," he said. "They're recognizing the fact that he's here with us and will continue to be a wonderful example to everyone he touches.

In addition, the team is honoring Matt in a more subtle way, keeping his name on the minor league roster indefinitely, instead of just wiping his accomplishments off, now that he is unable to play.

"That's class," said Clifford LaChappa. Proud that his son is gaining strength every day, including recently taking four steps on the parallel bars, and has the full facilities of his mind and an unfaltering faith in his Savior, plus memory, humor and emotions, LaChappa said that, despite all that's happened to them, they are still blessed.

LaChappa added that once Matt learns how to walk again, the rest is a total recovery. A heretofore unknown aspect of the tragedy was revealed when the elder LaChappa stated that Matt had observed his family going in the wrong direction and get-



Matt LaChappa (center) is flanked by Saul Soltero, Priscilla Oppenheimer. J.D. Daniel and members of his family as he is honored at Jack Murphy/Qualcomm Stadium. Photo by Greg Eichelbergei

ting away from the ideals set forth in the Scriptures, and had asked the Lord to use him to bring them all together, even if it meant taking his life.

The elder LaChappa said that he thinks God loved Matthew so much that he allowed him to stay with us, which also helped us return to humility and back to serving Him and the inspiration that he has been to thousands of others is God's way of bringing us back together.

Thus, the young man is probably more of a positive role model as he is, than he ever would have been as a ballplayer.

Soltero, the pitching coach of the Quakes, said the affair was bittersweet, if anything, "Having Matt alive is wonderful," he commented, his voice choking back the emotion of the moment. "But when I realize what he could have been, it's difficult to accept, sometimes."

Friends and relatives alike praised Matt's happy, cheerful attitude during this ordeal. The beaming continued as the team that he labored for, and the game he loved, showed its appreciation on that warm, sunny Sabbath afternoon.

In and of itself, that told the story of a person's undying faith in his God and hope in his future.

Clifford LaChappa said that you just have to believe that something greater than us has a hand in this whole thing, and that you just have to.

Asked what the day meant for him, Matt said, loudly and clearly, "Everything."





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